

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 15 and amended claims 1, 4, 6, 8-14 and 16 are in this application.

At paragraph 2 of the outstanding Office Action of August 7, 2003, the Examiner objected to the abstract. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the abstract contained legal phraseology such as “means.” Applicants have amended the abstract by removing any legal phraseology. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

At paragraph 3 of the outstanding Office Action of August 7, 2003, the Examiner objected to the disclosure. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the disclosure contained informalities at page 8, line 10 and at page 13, line 23. Applicants have amended the disclosure to correct the above-mentioned informalities. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action of August 7, 2003, the Examiner stated that the lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors and that Applicants cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification. Applicants have amended several portions of the lengthy specification to correct for minor errors.

At paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action of August 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ozawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,113). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1, recites in part, “An information communication system...**wherein said managing means selects said communication means corresponding to a best communicating access route, through which said one or more predetermined communicating routes send information sent to said user.**” (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the reference relied upon by the Examiner does not teach the above-recited feature of amended independent claim 1.

Ozawa teaches a system in which a person carrying a radio card is automatically detected so that a call to this person can be transferred to a telephone set located in the vicinity of that person (column 1, lines 6-12). However, Ozawa does not teach a managing means which selects a communication means that corresponds to a best communicating access route, through which one or more predetermined communicating routes send information sent to a user, as does amended independent claim 1. In Ozawa there is only one access route in the positioning system or one method of communication and there is no selection route. Once a person is detected in a certain area of a plant via the radio card, the system automatically makes a call on behalf of a

potential caller to a telephone in the nearest detected vicinity of the person via one path. In contrast, amended independent claim 1 teaches a plurality of potential access paths that may be used to distribute information and also teaches the selection of a best access route. Therefore amended independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Ozawa.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 1, amended independent claims 8, 14 and 16 are also believed to be distinguishable from Ozawa.

Furthermore, applicants submit that claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15 depend from one of amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14, and are therefore distinguishable for this reason alone.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Examiner has made of record, but not applied, several U.S. patents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's explicit finding that these references, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

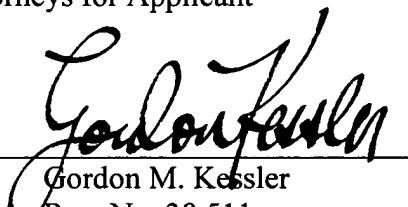
It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the applicants undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is a basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith
to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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